

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated February 18, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 15-20 and 22 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-9, 11-13, 15-20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,247,571 (Kay I) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,208,854 (Roberts et al.) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,252,953 (Shaffer).

Applicant's undersigned representative wishes to thank Examiner Barney for conducting the telephonic interview of April 21ST and for his continued consideration of the present application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Claims

Claim 1 is directed to a system for managing calls within a telephone network, comprising:

a first service switching point in communication with a first telephone station;

a second service switching point in communication with a second telephone station;

a service control point communicating with said first service switching point and said second service switching point, and **containing** a database that receives routing information for specifying routing of calls originally directed to the first telephone station, billing information for specifying billing of calls placed from the second telephone station, and **notification information identifying a distinctive ringing pattern for calls originally directed to said first telephone station but which are re-routed to said second telephone station**,

wherein said first service switching point is adapted to **poll said service control point for routing information and notification information upon receipt of a call** directed to the first telephone station, and wherein said second service switching point is adapted to poll said service control point for billing information upon receipt of calls placed from the second telephone station.

Similarly, claim 12 is directed to a system for managing calls in a telephone network, comprising:

a first service switching point communicating with a first telephone station;

a second service switching point communicating with a second telephone station; and

a service control point communicating with said first service control point and said second service control point, said service control point **having** a database including information specifying where to rout calls, information specifying to which number a calls should be billed, and **information identifying a distinctive ringing pattern for calls originally directed to one of said first telephone station and second telephone station but which are re-routed to another of said first telephone station and said second telephone station,**

wherein **upon receipt of a call** destined for said first telephone station, **said first service switching point polls said service control point for** information specifying where to route the call destined for said first telephone station and **information specifying a distinctive ringing pattern**, routes the call to either said first telephone station or said second telephone station based upon the information from said service control point, **and causes a ringing pattern to be created based upon the information specifying a distinctive ringing pattern**, and

wherein upon receipt of a call originating from said second telephone station, **said second service switching point polls said service control point for** information specifying to which service station the call is to be billed, and bills the call to either said first telephone station or said second telephone station based upon the information from said service control point.

Claim 13 is directed to:

[i]n an advanced intelligent network comprising a first service switching point communicating with a first telephone station, a second service switching point communicating with a second telephone station, and **a service control point** communicating with said first service switching point and said second service switching point, and **containing** a database that receives routing information for specifying routing of calls directed to the first telephone station, billing information for

specifying billing of calls placed from the second telephone station, and **notification information for identifying a ringing pattern for calls originally directed to one of the first telephone station but which are re-routed to the second telephone station**, a method of managing telephone calls, comprising

at the first service switching point, forwarding a request for routing information to the service control point;

at the first service switching point, forwarding a request for notification information to the service control point;

at the service control point, forwarding routing information to the first service switching point;

at the service control point, forwarding notification information to the first service switching point;

at the first service switching point, routing a call originally directed to the first telephone station based upon the routing information;

at the first service switching point, assigning a distinctive ringing pattern to a call originally directed to the first telephone station and which is rerouted to the second telephone station;

at the second service switching point, forwarding a request for billing information to the service control point;

at the service control point, forwarding billing information to the second service switching point;

at the second service switching point, billing a call received from the second telephone station based upon the billing information.

Similarly, claim 22 is directed to a method of managing calls in a telephone network, comprising:

upon receiving a call directed to a first telephone station, polling a service control point for information specifying whether to forward the call to the first telephone station or to a second telephone station, and **polling a service control point for information specifying a distinctive ringing pattern for calls originally directed to the first telephone station but which are re-routed to the second telephone station;**

forwarding the call to either the first telephone station or the second telephone station as specified by the information from the service control point, and **assigning a ringing pattern**

to the call based upon the information specifying a distinctive ringing pattern; and

upon receiving a call originating at a second telephone station, polling a service control point for information specifying whether to charge the call to the second telephone station or the second telephone station.

In order for a reference or set of references to render these claim obvious, the references must disclose each of the claimed elements, including those emphasized, and suggest the claimed combination. More particularly, the references **must teach combining a service control point comprising notification information identifying a distinctive ringing pattern for calls originally directed to a first telephone station but which are redirected to a second telephone station, and accessing that notification information upon receipt of a call, with the other claim elements.** Applicant's undersigned representative respectfully submits that none of the references even teach the emphasized limitations, and can not possibly suggest their combination with the other claimed elements.

The Cited References Do Not Teach Or Suggest the Claimed Combinations

Kay I allegedly discloses a network which allows for a local communication line to access capabilities that are typically associate with a business group. (Col. 6, ll. 44-49.) More particularly, Kay I discloses a work-at-home service that allows a home telephone line to selectively operate as a residential line or a business line. (Col. 18, ll. 42-44.) Kay I provides no teaching whatever regarding storing at a service control point notification information identifying a distinctive ringing pattern for calls originally directed to a first telephone station but which are redirected to a second telephone station, and accessing the notification information upon receipt of a call.

Roberts et al. allege to disclose systems and method for routing a call to a called party's landline or wireless communication unit based on the availability of the wireless communication unit. (Abstract). A call placed to a called party's landline communication unit is routed to the called party's wireless communication unit if the wireless communication unit is determined to be available. Otherwise, the call is routed the called party's landline communication unit. (Abstract). If a call is routed to the communication unit that is not associated with the number called by the calling party, "a distinctive ring, such as a multiple

ring, can be generated." (Col. 5, ll. 12-13). However, Roberts et al. do not teach how this distinctive ringing pattern is generated. Importantly, and in contradistinction to the claimed systems and methods, Roberts et al. nowhere disclose or even suggest storing at a service control point notification information identifying a distinctive ringing pattern for calls originally directed to a first telephone call but which are redirected to a second telephone, and accessing the notification information upon receipt of a call.

Shaffer discloses a system for virtual networking which allows telephone stations at multiple locations to be accessed as though they were located at a single location. (Col. 1, ll. 12-15.) In the system described by Shaffer, an employee's home phone can selectively be used as if it belongs to the virtual network, and provides the capability to selectively bill calls made from the employee's home telephone to the business or to the employee. (Abstract.) For calls made from an employee's telephone that are designated by a special dialing combination, a service control point changes the call signaling information associated with the call to identify the billing number as the business' rather than the employee's. (Col. 3, ll. 39-61.) When the modified call signaling information is received at the interexchange carrier network 118, the call is completed and billed like any other call using the modified signaling information. (Col 5, ll. 20-25.) Shaffer further discloses that distinctive ringing may be used to identify at the employee's home telephone calls that originate from the virtual network. (Col. 5, ll. 25-35). In contradistinction to the claimed systems and methods, however, Shaffer nowhere discloses or even suggests storing at a service control point notification information identifying a distinctive ringing pattern for calls originally directed to a first telephone call but which are redirected to a second telephone, and accessing the notification information upon receipt of a call. Indeed, not only does Shaffer not mention storing distinctive ringing information at a service control point, but to the extent Shaffer teaches distinctive ringing at all, it is for the purpose of identifying only that the call has originated outside the virtual network and not for purposes of identifying that it has been forwarded from a particular telephone station.

Therefore, because Kay I, Roberts et al, and Shaffer do not teach or even suggest storing at a service control point notification information identifying a distinctive ringing pattern for calls originally directed to a first telephone call but which are redirected to a second telephone, and accessing the notification information upon receipt of a call, they can

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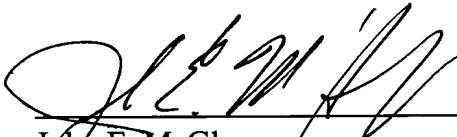
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not possibly render the claims obvious. Indeed, because the references entirely fail to teach or even suggest the claim limitations emphasized above, it is not possible that the references could teach or suggest the combination of the emphasized claim limitations with the other recited claim elements. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested. If the Examiner maintains the rejection, Applicant's undersigned representative respectfully requests that the Examiner quote the specific language in the reference that allegedly teaches storing at a service control point notification information identifying a distinctive ringing pattern for calls originally directed to a first telephone call but which are redirected to a second telephone, and accessing the notification information upon receipt of a call.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant's undersigned representative respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

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